formulated any specific schemes for the conservation and development of "Natural Oasis".

Elephant menace

1832. SHRI H.K.JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to elephant menace property worth lakhs of rupees was destroyed and human beings were killed in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of loss of property humanities and the amount of compensation paid district-wise during the same project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that living mechanism of compensation is outdated and it is too meagre; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take counter the menace of elephants and other wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details furnished by the State Government regarding damage caused by wild elephants to human-life and property in Karnataka during the last three years and the compensation paid therefor are given in the Statement enclosed. (See below)

(c) No, Sir. Government of India had advised all the State Governments in December 1999 for increasing the amount of *ex-gratia* payment in case of death caused by wild animals from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. The Government of Karnataka has accepted the advice *vide* its orders dated 12.02.2002. The rate for *ex-gratia* for permanent disability caused by elephants has also been enhanced to Rs. 25,000. The corresponding rates for crop damage have also been revised. Furthermore, the State Government, through its circular dated 11.6.2002,has adopted a uniform procedure for assessing the crop damage by field officers. The power of sanctioning *ex-gratia* relief in respect of human deaths has been delegated to the Divisional Forest Officers. The power of sanctioning *ex-gratia* relief for crop-damage has been delegated to Divisional Forest Officer (up to Rs. 6,000/- in each

case) and Conservators of Forests (amount in excess of Rs. 6000/- in each case).

(d) The steps usually undertaken by the State Forest Departments for controlling the menace of elephants and other wild animals are as under:—

— Erecting barriers (trenches, electric fencing etc.) to stop straying of elephants into human-habitations.

— Distributing crackers, search lights etc. among the villagers for chasing away elephants and other wild animals from agricultural fields.

— Deploying special wildlife squads in strategic locations for helping people in driving wild animals back into forests.

— Paying *ex-gratia* relief to the victims for loss of human life, livestock and crop damaged by wild animals.

— Identifying an eliminating elephants and other wild animals posing threat to human-life.

— Capturing problematic wild animals and translocating them to safe areas, wherever possible.

— Undertaking habitat-development works for elephants within forests.

— Identifying and protecting elephants corridors.

— Educating the people to live in harmony with elephants and other wild animals.

— Undertaking eco-development works in villages situated on the fringe of forests for reducing their dependence on forests for firewood, fodder and grazing of cattle.

Government of India provides financial support to the State Governments for undertaking anti-depredation measures and payment of *ex-gratia* relief under various centrally sponsored schemes, *viz.* Project Elephant, Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Statement

Details of Elephant Depredation in Karnataka (1999-2000 to 2001-2002)

Circle	Districts	No. of Cases			Total *Ex-gratia* (in Rupees)
		Human Injuries	Human Deaths	Crop Damage	
Chickmagalur	Chickmagalur (Pt.)	2	4	219	5,74,520/-
Shimoga	Shimoga & Chickmagalur (Pt.)	—	2	273	4,17,675/-
Kanara	Uttara Kannada	—	—	1006	9,72,413/-
Bellary	Bellary	—	—	7	4,800/-
Mysore	Mysore (Pt.) & Mandya	24	5	14,366	43,87,659/-
Kodagu	Kodagu	17	16	2143	50,21,652/-
Bangalore	Bangalore (Urban) (Pt.), Bangalore (Rural) (Pt.)	7	4	1379	18,24,750/-
Gulbarga	Gulbarga	—	—	1	10,000/-
Bannerghatta National Park	Bangalore (Urban) (Pt.), Bangalore (Rural) (Pt.)	4	6	3497	44,01,195/-
Mysore Project Tiger	Mysore (Pt.) and Chamarajnagar (Pt.)	8	9	2162	19,16,979/-
Cauvery Wildlife Division Kanakapura	Chamarajnagar (Pt.) & Bangalore Rural (Pt.)	1	4	452	7,11,950/-
Chamarajnagar	Chamarajnagar (Pt.) & Bangalore Rural (Pt.)	11	10	1212	0,99,920/-
Belgaum	Belgaum	—	1	654	14,47,650/-
Hassan	Hassan	—	2	423	4,96,385/-
	TOTAL:	74	63	27,794	2,4287,548/-